

# Have You Taken A Look Lately?

Your local League has just received its copy of "national's" newest publication, *Know Your Local Government*. You'll want to read it. If you go no further than the introduction, you will want your League, even if it did a local government survey as recently as 10 years ago, to do another. Provisional Leagues, about to do their first, will tackle the job with new interest and enthusiasm. And any chapter can serve as a useful starting point for new subjects on your local League Program.

*Know Your Local Government* replaces *Know Your Town*, which has been drastically revised and substantially amplified to reflect the growing complexity of urban society.

The latest U.S. population census shows that from 1950 to 1960, when population as a whole increased by some 18 percent, urban population increased by nearly 30 percent. In 1960, urban population represented about 70 percent of total population.

At the beginning of 1962 there were 91,236 governmental units in the United States, including:

Federal government	1
State governments	50
County governments	3,043
Local government:	
School districts	34,678
Special districts	18,323
Municipalities	17,997
Townships or villages	17,144

In 1950, local governments spent \$14.8 billion in providing general services; in 1960, \$33.9 billion. At this rate, by 1970 the figure will be some \$53 billion.

If stresses and strains on local government to meet the growing demand for increased services and pro-

grams are great, necessity for citizen understanding of immediate and future needs is correspondingly great. The environment in which Americans are to live and work and rear their families in the years ahead depends in no small measure on the quality of municipal government, which in turn depends on the degree of interest and participation of citizens in local government affairs.

*Know Your Local Government* is designed to equip League members with the most up-to-date survey guide possible so that they can examine thoroughly the existing structure, functions, and programs of their local governments. Publication of the findings will extend the unique service that local Leagues have long rendered to their communities. Widespread study of the findings will enable communities to assess realistically the resources and capacities of their local governments.

No community is any longer self-contained; it is part of an increasingly complex whole. In a section on interlocal relations, the new survey guide recognizes this growing interdependence and notes the various means by which governments are co-operating formally and informally to solve growth problems.

A chapter on finance deals with the ways in which governments raise and spend their money and the means by which new and expanded programs might be financed. The citizen needs to know the extent of imbalance between local needs and resources, to understand the fiscal

## PAMPHLET TIER

### BEST SELLERS LAST MONTH

- ★ *Facts & Issues* (3 on United Nations, 3 on Foreign Economic Policy) —\$9,702 copies. (15¢ each)
- ★ *The Role of Political Parties U.S.A.* (published by League of Women Voters Education Fund) —3,682 copies. (35¢)
- ★ *National Continuing Responsibilities* —2,570 copies. (35¢)

### WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH?

- ★ *How a Bill Becomes a Law*. Handy booklet describing route of legislation through Congress (from *You and Your National Government*). 8 pp. 15¢
- ★ *Inventory of Work on Reapportionment*. Updated publication on work of state Leagues in this now-in-the-news field. 60 pp. 60¢.
- ★ *Recreation and Parks*. Lively story of 12 case studies on a subject popular with local Leagues. 37 pp. 45¢
- ★★ Order through your Publications Chairman or write to national office.

operation and potential of his community, to be aware of the evolving pattern of state-local sharing of fiscal responsibility.

Chapters on housing, urban renewal, planning and zoning, public health, for example, will help Leagues to cover more fully the manifold activities of local government.

*Know Your Local Government*, like all major League publications, was read by a number of nonmember specialists in the field of government. Typical of their critiques are:

"We were very much impressed with the draft and with the insight into community problems and operations reflected in it." . . . "I hesitate to offer any additions to so comprehensive a questionnaire." . . . "I have no significant criticisms or suggestions; it seems to me that any individual or group that used this as the basis for a survey of nearly any unit of local government ought to come up with a thorough report."

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## INDEX

Volume XII

April 1962 through March 1963

(KULP—Keeping Up with League Program)  
APPORTIONMENT of state legislatures: Equal Protection of the Laws, July-August  
CONGRESS: Vis-a-vis: The 88th Congress, Issues 1963, February  
CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDUP: October  
CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY: April (trade, foreign aid, D.C. home rule); July-August (trade, U.N. bonds); September (water); March (water)  
D.C. HOME RULE: KULP, April, June  
ELECTION LAWS: What Happens on the Way to the Polls, October  
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK: KULP, March  
FOREIGN POLICY: KULP, April, May, June, July-August, September, March; Aid in the New Decade, April; Questions and Answers on OECD, September; Aid in Good Conscience, February; B of P—The Hidden Persuader, March; At What Price Buy American? March; Ham and Glass and Many Things, March  
IN MEMORIAM: Mrs. Clayton B. Simmons, April; Mrs. Eugene Burgess, Mrs. Robert L. Turman, Sr., February  
LEAGUE: National Program 1962-64, May; 1962 Convention, May; appointments to Board (Mesdames Briscoe, Fraenkel, Rosenblum, Stoneman, Treuhaft, Miss Stuhler) May; resignation from Board (Mrs. Carré) July-August; Dear Member: May (1962 Convention), June (putting League experience to work outside

League), October (finance), January (world problems, League problems)  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND: The League—the Funds, June; Party for a Pamphlet about Parties, February  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Have You Taken a Look Lately? March  
MISCELLANEOUS: Committee of Correspondence and Women's Africa Committee, June; League's Observer at U.N. interviews Ambassador Stevenson, October; League honors Dr. Gallup, November-December; Consumers Advisory Council, January  
OVERSEAS EDUCATION FUND OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: The League—the Funds, June  
POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS: How to be Politically Effective by Really Trying, January  
STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION: 24 Million Feet in the Door, June  
TRADE: League Amateurs at Work, April; KULP, April, May, June, July-August, September  
UNITED NATIONS: KULP, April, May, June, July-August, September, March; The Sensible Sixteenth (report on 16th session of General Assembly), July-August; Questions and Answers on the U.N., September, October; United Nations, The World's Fall-Safe, November-December; The World Works on Water, January  
WATER: KULP, September, March  
INDEX, THE NATIONAL VOTER: 1/1/52, 7/1/52, 1/15/53, 7/1/53, 2/15/54, 8/31/54, 3/15/55, 8/15/55, 3/15/56, 3/15/57; beginning with 1958, annually in March issue